PRACTICAL HINTS

ON THE

Treatment of Several Diseases.

BY

JOHN PEACOCK, M. D.

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JOHN PEACOCK, M.D.

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PREFACE.

AS the author is hastening to that undiscovered country from whose bourn no traveller returns, he wishes to make his fellow-labourers in the vineyard, in which he has so anxiously toiled, acquainted with the discoveries which a long, arduous, and uninfluenced practice has allowed him to call his own.—Before he determined that this little work should see the light, the author, jealous of being partial to his own composition, obtained leave to lay it before Dr. Elliotson, professor of the practice of medicine in the London University, and one of the most distinguished men in the metropolis.—Dr. Elliotson returned the manuscript with a very flattering letter, from which the following is an extract:—

London, April 30th, 1834.

"DEAR SIR,

I feel much obliged by the perusal of your manuscript—it has given me great pleasure, for the practice is sound, and the cases are highly interesting.—I hope you will publish it—for your object is to do good, and acquire honorable reputation."

The author does not wish to conceal the gratification he felt on receiving this testimony; and in giving his little book to the world, he cannot avoid expressing a hope that it may "do good," and be of some service in a profession to which, during a life of anxious and unremitting exertion, he has devoted himself with no less of affection than energy.

He begs, in conclusion, his readers indulgence in the errors of the press.

Darlington, July 26th, 1834.

PREFATORY REMARKS.

To strangers, perhaps, an apology for this mode of giving to the public the result of my practice, connected with the Dinsdale water, may be thought necessary, as the practice is confessedly peculiar. In the first place, I always provide my own medicines; and, as I have them from a source in which adulteration has never yet been detected, they are always genuine, always alike, and I thereby have got to know how to handle my own weapons.

From the exposure which has lately been made in the Newcastle papers, the world has been informed how very precarious is the composition and medicinal effect of a prescription, were it even penned by *Esculapius* himself. It is well known that splendid fortunes have been

A few years ago, I had a gentleman from the East Indies under my care, who, when he left the place, took a prescription with him of a powder, which he had to have recourse to frequently. After taking the tour of England, I received a frank from him at Bath, enclosing five specimens of the powder which he had got made up from the same prescription, in different parts of England, and none of them alike, either in colour, taste, or flavour. Which way is a physician to gain experience in the use of medicine, without he knows what he is prescribing? Have our teachers arrived at such a certainty in the practice of medicine, that a modern physician has no need to add his experience to the general amount? If he is to add to the public stock, the medicines he uses must be all pure alike, otherwise every prescription is a random shot.

To those to whom the fee is the principal charm, this subject may be slurred over, or made light of, as it often is; but depend upon it, it is as necessary for a physician to know

what he is prescribing, as it is for a general to know the number and quality of his troops, before he risks an engagement.

I have to complain of another custom which physicians of fashion have got into, which is that of prescribing quack medicines; being too indolent, or too obedient to high mandates, to watch the effects of medicines sanctioned by the Colleges. Some great duchess tells him that she knows there is no medicine will do the patient so much good as the one she recommends. The dear good man of science then tells the apothecary, that he has not much opinion of quack medicines, but a man in his walk cannot fly in the face of the nobility. This is what I have often seen. The prudent gentleman knows, that, whatever betide, the duchess will stand at his back. Oh, shame to science! A Chancellor of the Exchequer might be ashamed of licensing the sale of such abominable stuff as the ignorant are deluded with, by affixing to them the KING'S PATENT, but, if the English can only make money,

Dugald Stewart and Dr. Paley may hide their diminished heads, till state policy, *perchance*, bring them into play again.

I have practised in my profession forty years; my neighbours will bear witness how indefatigable I have been, not in accumulating money, but in collecting the phenomena connected with the history and progress of diseases, and such facts as throw light upon the power of medicine and the non-natnrals in the cure of them. I have ardently sought for *remedies*, and spared neither trouble nor expense in the pursuit; and I can conscientiously say, that I never gave two medicines where one would do. During the whole of my practice, I have taken in every useful and practical work from London, Edinburgh, Paris, and Dublin; and, I trust, I have been as deliberate and guarded in adopting the many new medicines which have been promulgated of late years, as was consistent with a proper spirit of inquiry, as many of them owe their existence to the ardent imaginations of the discoverers only. There certainly has been

an augmentation of many valuable remedies to the healing art during the last twenty years, and among the rest, the Dinsdale water, with all its adventitious aids, does not hold the lowest station. In due time, it will be a very popular remedy. The only circumstance which is likely to keep it back, is the too frequent endeavour to make it a cure for every disease. Disappointments will thus frequently take place, and those diseases which are evidently under its control, will be jumbled with the failures.

As the following OBSERVATIONS will most likely travel beyond my sphere of action, I have thought it right, by this preface, to inform strangers under what pretensions I claim the attention of the public. I trust I have no need to appeal to those who know me; I flatter myself they will give me full credit for industry and indefatigable attention to improvement in the practice of my profession, as well as probity and honour in the mode of conducting it.—They will bear witness that, at every opportunity, I have made the laws of nature subservient

to the restoration of health, and have only appealed to medicine when it was perfectly requisite; and I hope my son, Dr. Beddoes Peacock (for whose liberal reception I have to thank my friends and the public most heartily) will, from inclination as well as policy, pursue with firmness the same path.

THE AUTHOR.

ERRATA.

Page 22, for operient, read *aperient.*

—— 58, for dolore urgenti, read *urgente.*

—— 70, for ichorus, read *ichorous.*

—— 74, to Pulv. Digitalis, add ℥j.

PRACTICAL HINTS,

&c.

I WAS called to a young woman who had, what was described to me, as ulcers upon the tonsils during several days, which at length terminated in a complete sloughing of the tonsils, attended with an intolerable stench and great prostration of strength. I ordered the following mixture to be taken,—two table-spoonfuls every two hours. Under this treatment she soon found a comfortable warmth in her skin, her pulse got up, the whole of the diseased fauces turned off, and in twenty-four hours she was perfectly safe.

℞ Confect. Aromat.
Pulv. Zingib āā ʒj.
Carbon. Ammon. ʒj.
Tinct. Opii. ʒij.
Aq. Menth. Pip. ℥viij. ft. mistura.

I here merely put out my FEELERS, having had some peculiar opinions concerning mortification some time, resolving to take the first opportunity of putting them to the test.

Case I.

I was soon furnished with an opportunity. A private of the 35th regiment of foot, quartered at Darlington, being jealous of his wife, undertook to destroy himself by laying upon his back in an open cow-shed in very cold weather, where he was found at the close of the fifth day accidentally. He had not tasted meat or drink the whole time. The people who found him carried him to the nearest public house, and out of their kindness poured into him warm spirit and water, which brought on a violent inflammation upon his benumbed legs; and when I was ordered to attend him by his captain, (Stuart,) the whole of his legs and feet were closely covered with blue vesicles, and the pain had nearly forsook him, but he had a very cadaverous countenance: linen rags dipped in gin, (being the cheapest spirits we could lay hold of,) were spread upon his legs and feet, and the mixture similar to what was given to the young woman above, but rather stronger of the opium, was given to him. At the end of four days the skin, the muscles, and the fat, were as nicely dissected off as if it had been done by Laurence himself, and the tendons were all so beautifully white they looked like clean white penny ribbon ornamentally disposed over his legs and feet. The poor fellow by this time had repented of the scheme of suicide, and by the ordinary dressings and a little tonic medicine he soon was enabled to mount his new legs, and there seemed to be no want of elasticity in his walk. Now

the rule I have abided by in giving opium in mortification is to administer as strong a dose as the patient can bear without feeling lethargic or exhausted. If he has a pain in his head, or sweats copiously with flushed face or cold clammy hands, we have gone too far; no medicine is so certain or so powerful if its effects be watched with a tolerable share of caution.

As I only aim at directing the attention to the good effects of opium in mortification, I omit the rest of this man's case—he was allowed any thing he could eat with large potations of porter and strong ale. I have had too much rough practice to get to splitting hairs about diet, or being too fastidious about distinctions where there is no practical difference.

Case II.

Thomas Harpur, a sawyer, was attacked with typhus fever, then prevalent, his head was much affected, for which he was bled rather copiously, and his bowels emptied freely; this was early in the morning, the weather rather cold; about seven in the evening his left leg was attacked with violent inflammation, particularly on the fore part; his friends neglected to inform us of this circumstance till very early in the morning, although the man had been bawling in pain all the night. The delirium had forsook him the moment the inflammation took place, and now a large crop of blue vesicles had taken possession of the whole front of his leg. The cloths soaked in gin were immediately applied, and our

opiate, &c. immediately administered—but it seemed the next day as if the disease had a mind to contest the point with us, for the upper part of the leg and a little above the knee were œdemetous, and the inflamed part had become very black ; the same treatment was continued, and on the fifth day we could perceive a fair line of demarcation. On the sixth day we applied poultices of bread and milk and boiled turnips, and we had a rapid slough off the front of the leg and all went on well. It is worthy of remark how the metastasis relieved the head; the tongue which had been very foul became clean when a few of the poultices had been removed, and the pulse was coming to its natural beat. As I am merely advocating one part of the treatment, to avoid prolixity, I only give as much of the case as is necessary to throw light upon it.

Case III.

J. Hildred, a waggon driver, a very lusty man, fell ill at Newcastle of fever, which was prevalent at that place ;—being anxious to be at his own home in Darlington, a bed was put into a waggon and he set off in it ; during the journey a violent inflammation seized one leg and when they sent for me, which was the next day in the morning, his right leg was covered with vesicles, his pulse quick and tremulous, and his tongue very foul, and his limb almost double the circumference of its fellow, lotions of spirit were applied and a full dose of the opiate mixture given every two hours.

I this day met by chance with an eminent surgeon and took him to see the case, and told him how I was treating it—he told me I might do as I liked but nothing would save him but amputation. From this day we went on in the usual way, keeping up as regular a balance of the animal powers by means of the medicine and porter. The limb had put on a very black appearance, and when it gave signs of sloughing the poultices, with a little help from the forceps, brought away a very large quantity—but this disease was confined to the leg—the integuments of the foot were not molested—and a very large ulcer was left upon the leg, which got well under the management of Mr. Wallas, a surgeon, of this place.

Case IV.

Mrs. Poulton, an old woman of this town, who lived by herself, was doing something on the ceiling of her kitchen, assisted to reach it by putting one chair upon another; when behold, her ladder slipped and she fell against the wall, and was suspended by an iron crook which had penetrated the middle of her forearm, and from which she was not immediately liberated.—I was not the first called in.—It was on the third day from the accident I first saw her, when her whole arm, up to her shoulder, was in a state of complete mortification. The whole limb was œdemetous, and it was every minute making further progress, and her constitution was sinking rapidly.—I could not find her pulse: and her tongue was a

black red.—I soon had a dose of my medicine into her, and sat by her awhile to watch the effects of it. The first change was in her countenance, which took place in about an hour, and she shewed a little colour, and her pulse gradually became tangible.—At first it was intermittent, but that went off in the course of the day. Now such a weakly creature as this, being on the wrong side of seventy, required great watching, as too large a dose of the medicine would have soon exhausted her;—but by attending to the balance, I felt quite sure of her, and in a few days she was out of danger, with very little sloughing, except where the crook had penetrated.

Case V.

A Porter to a Grocer in Blackwellgate, being over-powered by a sugar hogshead which he was letting down into a cellar, had his hand so terribly crushed, and was otherwise so materially hurt, that a violent mortification ensued.—I was not called in till the third day.—When I saw him, a black inflammation, covered with blue vesicles, was in possession of his hand. His arm had been much lacerated above the elbow: his arm was very œdemetous, with several pale vesicles scattered over it. Linen dipped in spirit was thrown over his hand and arm, and the usual medicine given, which he took made very strong of opium, without the least inconvenience; indeed every dose told, and in three days we had a complete sloughing of the diseased portion of the

hand, and of all the muscles of a great part of the forearm.—The man recovered.

Case VI.

An old sailor who had served his Majesty a great number of years, in every variety of climate, came to the Dinsdale sulphur baths to seek relief from a violent pain in both legs, but more particularly in one of them.—As I attended frequently at this delightful spring, I was sometimes applied to by this poor man, and I administered to relieve his sufferings, but often in vain; as the cold weather advanced his sufferings increased, and grown desperate, he cut down upon the metatarsal bones of his worst foot with a penknife, with the view, as he said, to BOTTOM the complaint.—A mortification immediately ensued, and as he had been frequently assisted by some kind hearted ladies at the hotel, chiefly of Lord Dundas' family, as I was not there the first day, they were good enough to procure him two surgeons.—As soon as I heard of it I called upon the man, and found his leg was condemned, as the surgeons had told him he must lose his limb or his life. I am sorry that I could not attend more to professional etiquette, I was vexed at the man being taken from me, and being conscious this was a case I was perfectly master of, I was provoked to tell him that if he remained with me I could cure him. I have related this gossip just to shew that it was considered a very serious case. There was nothing remarkable in the recovery.

The bones of the great toe were so completely denuded of their periosteum, that they were obliged to be removed, and the restoration of the limb was rather slower than I expected; but it is not to be wondered at, when a constitution is based upon grog, which I dare say is frequently the case among the sailors in the navy. The medicine used on this occasion was from the formulæ in the first page, with now and then a slight alteration.

The man walked well when he set off for his home at South Shields. I should not omit that the family of Lord Dundas stood the whole expense.

I could give a great many more cases of successful treatment of mortification by opium and spices, but as the above will shew sufficiently how the medicine acts, I will beg leave to state a case of its twin sister, Erisipelas, in which a neglect of a few hours would have been fatal. The patient was Major Rudd, a lusty gentleman of fifty, and subject to the gout; he had been indisposed before he set off on a journey through Darlington, but as his complaint increased, he was under the necessity of calling in assistance at this place: he had had two or three shivering fits; one of his legs was very large and tense, of a flaming red, and the ancle and part of the foot were covered with transparent vesicles; his tongue was white, and his pulse very quick.—Cloths dipped in spirit were wrapped round his leg; a brisk purgative, with a few grains of calomel along with it, was given him, and he was ordered immediately home, with directions that when his purgative had operated, he was

immediately to begin with the usual medicine against mortification, as prescribed in the first page. I saw him the next day at his own house—he was going briskly on with his medicine and spirit-washes, of which he approved exceedingly, as he said his feelings were much more comfortable under them; —he was allowed a few glasses of wine every day. On the third day there was a deal of discharge, and scabs were disposed to form; and I could not help flattering myself that the leg was a good deal reduced in size, as well as in tension. I did not see him after the sixth day, when I could fairly pronounce him safe;—the scabs were no way troublesome, and the volume of the limb greatly reduced.

We see very few cases of genuine erysipelas in this neighbourhood, owing, I presume, to the fine wholesome air on the banks of the Tees; but when I have met with it, of whatever nature I find it, the first move is a few grains of calomel, along with a brisk purge, and after this we finish with our usual antigangrenous mixture and spirit lotions; but this should be observed, that it does not seem that there is occasion for so much opium in ordinary cases of erysipelas, as of mortification; and the first of these diseases, I think, requires more spices.—This is the result of my practice, which has not been a confined one.—The practical reader will be struck with the rapidity with which the respective diseases are brought to a crisis under this practice; whereas, he will find that under other the most scientific means, there is often no material change before the

tenth, twelfth, or fourteenth day. There is another severe method lately proposed for phlegmonous erysipelas, by a gentleman whose humane disposition is indisputable; but he must have had an impression that the treatment of the disease was attended with great hazard, when he proposed so awful an operation: so far as I know of mankind, nine out of ten would run the chance of death before they would submit to such a remedy, which is yet after all but precarious.—I trust the surgeons, before they go any further, will try a more gentle procedure.—For they may have daily practice in London, where erysipelas is very common.

We have had three cases very lately which have exemplified the utility of this plan: the first was a lusty gentleman from Scotland, who having been overturned with one of the coaches, and very much bruised in his leg and foot, was laid up at the King's Head. We very soon had mortification to contend with, and as our plan had always been so successful before, we never thought of changing it.

This practice was new to my partner, Dr. Macfarlan, but the good effects were so obvious there is no doubt it will never be lost sight of. To see the foul tongue, the sunken countenance, the clammy skin, all beaming out like a summer's morning, and with what facility the diseased parts are thrown off as soon as the line of demarcation is formed, will greatly surprise any one who has not had the happiness of witnessing the magic of this plan of treatment.

The last case but one was that of a mill-wright, who

had the misfortune, a few days ago, to get his arm much bruised by an accident, which the surgeon laid open when in a state of inflammation.—A mortification was the consequence.—The first symptom was a crop of blue vesicles upon the forearm, with great depression of strength and spirits; a weak pulse, but very quick; a foul tongue, and a cadaverous countenance.—We lost no time in pouring the usual medicine into him: the arm was fomented with decoction of poppies.—He soon began to remark that he felt a glow at his HEART, which is always the first harbinger of improvement; after this the sloughing makes rapid progress, and the cherry coloured granulations come on apace. A person who has not seen the disease treated with opium and ammonia, has no notion of the rapid progress made thereby.

The last case of mortification we have been called to, was the nephew of a very respectable veterinary surgeon, in Darlington, on the tenth of last May; he was a weak hectic boy, who having got a severe blow upon his ankle, we had to contend with a great inflammation, which was succeeded by mortification of a very malignant aspect.

A person not versed in the improved treatment of mortification, would have consigned this lamentable case to the knife, and considered the boy's recovery very doubtful, or difficult in it. The boy's uncle, who is a very intelligent man, could not but marvel at the direct control which the medicine exercised over the complaint. There was a complete sloughing off of the diseased parts, which was succeeded by fine granulations, and all was soon well.

Diabetes.

Dr. Bardsley says, that as no two physicians, from the days of Galen up to the most learned of the moderns, could ever agree concerning the nature or pathology of Diabetes, those who succeed in the cure of it must be considered as empirical. So if the fine spun theories, of which the medical press has teemed ever since I was fifteen years old, do not fit the disease at every point, we have no right to try to cure it without being called quacks: a long time since, it struck me that it was a disease of the stomach, owing to a peculiar acid generated there, which prevented the digestion and assimilation of the food.

I have a high opinion of Dr. Bardsley. I am under great obligations to him for his kind attention to one of my family; but, with his leave, I will venture to incur the name of quack as often as I can find a remedy for any disease, whether it has puzzled the learned or not. After this opinion was formed, I was consulted by a military gentleman, about fifty, who was a good deal wasted by the complaint;—he had a craving appetite, much thirst, and a dull pain in the region of his stomach, which he could not call heartburn, but it was nearly allied to it—for he had formerly suffered a great deal from the heartburn; his skin was dry, and his urine, he said, had long tasted sweet, it was pale, and measured about six quarts in the twenty-four hours, sometimes more;

the pulse was feeble, but not very quick; the tongue red, and very dry, such a tongue as is frequently seen in the typhus fever;—he had a trifling cough, such as is generally called SYMPTOMATIC,—his bowels were very confined. We began with ten leeches applied to the stomach, and a couple of the common aperient pills, to be repeated every two hours till a passage is procured.—The next day the following powder was ordered to be repeated every four hours, night and day, in spring water.

℞ Ferri. præcip. gr. v.
Opii. grss. ad. gr. i.
Pulv. Arromat. gr. iij.
Cretæ pp. ʒj.
Pulv. Gum Arabic. ʒj.
—— Jacobi. gr. iij. m. ft. Pulvis.

The half grain of opium in this prescription was not inserted as an astringent,—but from my experience, nothing prevents the acid fermentation of the stomach so certainly as a small dose of opium, or extract. papav. alb. This gentleman lived some distance from me, but he left me with directions that he was to please his appetite in what he eat, making a point that animal food should prevail when he could make it agreeable to his taste, and he was SWORN to take only water to drink.—A fortnight was given him to try the effects of the medicine, and then to let me see him; but he wrote to me in the course of a week begging me not to forget the prescription, he said I should see a gay young fellow at the end of the fortnight.—When he came, there was indeed a

strange alteration—from a withered old fellow he had become corky and facetious, and begged me to fix the day when we could have a bottle of wine together. I ordered him to be bled with leeches the next day, and then again a fortnight after that; and from this time he rapidly got well, without any alteration in his medicine, except increasing the opium a little, but never to exceed a grain, and I had to vary the operient two or three times to please his whims.—I think from first to last, he took the cretaceous medicine about six weeks; but he confessed that he sometimes towards the latter end, lengthened the interval between the doses.

I have got to place implicit reliance upon this plan of medicine, when we have our patients tolerably early; but they too frequently apply when the tone of the stomach and other viscera are entirely destroyed, and a hopeless emaciation has taken place.

The faculty can sometimes do great things, but we cannot perform miracles.

I have choice of cases of diabetes, but I will give a curious compound one next.

A very large man, by trade a skinner, about sixty, both sober and active, became anasarcous after a very bad cold, and I could not say whether there was not ascites, as the abdomen was very large and tense; he made a little urine, and that high coloured, and had great thirst.—A quarter of a grain of elaterium was given, and repeated every four hours during almost the whole of three days, which lightened him much; he was then put upon iron and squills, with

a very small dose of calomel, by way of helping his strength, when he got to be active and rather florid, and his dropsy entirely left him. After engaging in his usual occupation a few weeks, he began to complain of great weakness and thirst again; upon enquiry what colour his urine was of, he said it was pale; being desired to taste it, he said it was sweet, and of an unusual smell: symptoms of diabetes were completely established —We set to work with cretaceous powders.—There never was so much pain or soreness as to make the leeches necessary.—Aperients were frequently called for; and he had not the diabetes a fortnight before it was subdued. It was well that this good man did not live in the days of witchcraft; he could have got some old woman burned or drowned for practising her wicked art, which there was no escaping from,—for in a very little time after this, the dropsy returned with all its force; and till he was completely emptied, I had the honor of being employed for this honest John Bull; but alas! I had some how lost his confidence, and another practitioner was called in, to my great mortification, for I should have liked to have seen it out. I was told that he died in a few weeks afterwards.

The next Case

Was a lady approaching to fifty, with very little variety of symptoms; she was, when in health, rather jolly, and she was not much reduced when she came under my care: her thirst was great, and her mouth

very dry, so that she had a great difficulty in spitting out her saliva.—The abdomen was large and tense, but in striking it there was no difficulty in discovering that it was only FLATUS. The region of the stomach was not very sore;—she had likewise all the other characteristic symptoms of diabetes,—a copious discharge of sweet urine—a very dry short cough, &c. After clearing out the intestines with a dose of calomel and jalap, I gave her the cretaceous medicine in a variety of forms, but with continued benefit as long as the disease lasted. In a great measure I dropped restricting her to a diet of animal food alone, and I have done the same to every patient I have had since in the diabetes, and they have not been few. I have told them to find out what kind of food agreed with their stomachs best, and stick to that;—when the palate was pleased we had not so much flatus to contend with, nor the gullet nor fauces so dry; but I have always pressed them to be as moderate in QUANTITY as possible. In a state of convalescence, they have been allowed a little mild ale to their butchers meat whenever they asked for it; and I am certain the stomach cannot be comfortable when the diet is loathed.

This lady has continued well for four years, without being put in mind of the complaint.

I hope these three cases will be enough to make the reader acquainted with my plan of treating the disease.—I will next proceed to

Dropsy.

This is a very frequent disease, but there is no one plan of treatment applicable to all; we have to grope a good while sometimes for an efficient remedy, and frequently, (particularly when some of the viscera are diseased,) are set entirely at defiance.

I have no conjectural theories to amuse my readers with, what has succeeded with others as well as myself I generally commence my operations with, and sometimes, like foxhunters, we have to cast about two or three times before we hit on. I have not been in the habit of keeping regular memorandums, —I wish now that I had:—when I was in pursuit of some difficulty which I was anxious to subdue, I then kept minutes till I had in some measure accomplished the point or despaired of success. The first case I find to be a farmer's wife at Long Newton, a lusty woman between thirty and forty. A respectable practitioner at Stockton had sent to me to meet him at her house—her lower extremities were anasarcous up to her hips, and there was strong reason to believe there was ascites too. The disease had commenced after a bad cold, in which she had suffered in her chest;—her first adviser had made use of those means which intelligent practitioners are taught to place reliance upon, but there was reason to fear that the case would be obstinate. I recommended a trial of Fowler's tinct. nicotianæ, beginning with a small dose and gradually augmenting it. It

would be tedious to spin out the case to any length, I hope it will be sufficient to say, that in a few weeks she was entirely restored.

Case II.

The scarlet fever being very prevalent in Darlington and the neighbouring villages, brought us an accession of dropsical patients;—five of them came to my lot to treat and I did not consider them all formidable.

The complaint in four of them soon gave way to calomel and jalap. The fifth, a girl of sixteen, was with difficulty got through the fever, which left behind it a cough and a troublesome pain in her chest, and anasarca almost universal: from laying so long in bed, and chiefly upon the left side, the integuments covering the left hip began to be very sore and inflamed, and a copious crop of phlyctænæ covered the whole joint. There was now no time for delay: linen dipped in gin was applied constantly to the joint; her pulse within the last six hours had become very slow and weak, not much above sixty; her eyes seemed glassy, and her inspirations were effected with difficulty: my friend, on the first page of this work, had never disappointed me, so I gave her two tablespoonfuls of this mixture, and in other two hours repeated it; and in the intervals she took a glass of good port wine, with warm water, sugar, and nutmeg, which I was glad to find she relished very highly.—I began to see that if we saved her

life, it must be at the expense of a great sloughing off from the hip: the separation commenced—when I did not find it so extensive as it was deep; and the medicine and wine, it was easy to see, were every day helping her pulse.—I thought it was owing to the ammonia in her medicine; but at this time the urine began to flow pretty copiously, and the legs and feet were much relieved. Many who are not so accustomed to traverse the black sea of gangrene and erysipelas, will think me very rash in beginning with opium and stimulants at the time I did; but those who blame me in this particular will give me credit, I hope, for watching without ceasing, the vital powers, and taking care that they are not overdone. If the opium and stimuli are carried too far, exhaustion is the inevitable consequence; and we cannot, by any manœuvring, recover the strength we have thrown away.

If I was tempted to theorise in this case, I should guess, that the sphacelated joint acted as a sedative upon the diseased chest, and I opened my artillery upon it just as the pulse was sinking.—Mortification is not so dangerous in tolerable prudent hands, as exhaustion of the nervous energy from too much opium.

We found the cavity in the hip fill up very slowly: I was obliged to get my patient into the country, and give her tonics and diuretics before we had done with her.

Case III.

An old gentleman, who lived near Darlington, had been struggling with both ascites and anasarca sometime, under the care of my dear good friend, Dr. J. Clark, assisted by one of the Darlington surgeons, when he took it into his head to request me to decide his fate.—He was a feeble man of very sedentary habits, sitting up till two or three o'clock every morning; he was temperate in his diet and drink—an ounce of boiled haddock was as much as ever he eat at dinner, which he washed down with a very diluted glass of spirit and water. It is true that he had led rather a rackety life in some part of his youth, but had been wise enough to relinquish these follies very early.

His pulse was weak, and a little more than seventy; the abdomen large and tense; and his feet and legs, up to his knees, very œdematous; he had a good deal of thirst, and I gratified him highly by ordering him treacle beer for his constant beverage, in which half-an-ounce of cream of tartar was dissolved in every gallon. He cautioned me against giving him calomel, and informed me that a quarter of a grain had, two months back, salivated him completely: he made very little urine, and that high coloured.

The following medicine had soon a very good effect upon him, along with exercise in a carriage.

℞ Potassæ Acetat. ℈j.
Carbon. Ammon. gr. v.
Sp. Æther. Nitros. ʒss.
Tinct. Hyos. gtt. x,
Nicot. gtt. x. ad. xxx.
Tint. Scillæ ʒss.
——— Digital. gtt. x. ad. xxx.
Aq. Menth. Vir. m. ft. Haust.
ter indies sumend.

An old woman travelled every day from the village of Eryholme to the market-town and back, (nine miles) on foot, driving an ass with panniers, and in general she had very good health; but having been caught in a severe shower of rain, it injured her health and terminated in a very obstinate anasarca.

This proved a very extraordinary case, for as fast as she was enabled to drop the use of medicine, she was sure to begin again; and was filled up from the crown of her head to the soles of her feet, full sixteen times in three years. I tried at the first a variety of medicines; but I found, after a while, that she kept her strength the best under the use of small doses of calomel and pulv. scillæ, gr. iij. washed down by a solution of the red oxyd of iron, in cold water.

With these she got well, and was enabled to traverse her old ground more than twenty years afterwards.

I was sent for to Chester-le-Street to see a young man in anasarca, of a most FORMIDABLE NATURE; he was in bed, and had been some time attended by two of our most respectable physicians; although naturally a slender youth, of about twenty,—one

might guess him to weigh twenty-two or twenty-three stones: his head was a huge size, and his features quite obliterated.

The excessive whiteness of his skin was very striking, and, I presume, from the great deposit of coagulable lymph into the cellular membrane; he felt upon pressure, unusually firm, and in some measure countenanced a remark which was made by a person upon the spot,—that he resembled a case of beef in frosty weather.

I need not say that his urine was scanty and his thirst great; I let him swig bottled porter and treacle beer with the usual proportion of cream of tartar in it.—His medicines were the solution of the red oxyd of iron, with squills, and very minute doses of calomel;—but he soon recovered the human form, and in a few weeks was as active as any of his neighbours. It is remarked by all the writers upon dropsy, that frequently after the disease is subdued their patients are taken off by apoplexy. We have to lament that this amiable young man, some months after he was apparently restored to perfect health, was removed by a sudden death.

When I cast back, I find that this tragical termination is not owing to any peculiar treatment: all the various modes of treating dropsy are liable to this sudden chop, and I do not find that the most ingenious pathologist can account for it.

A lady, somewhat advanced in years, came to Middleton to seek assistance from these salubrious waters, and consulted me. When in health she had

been a stout strong woman, but now there was every appearance of incipient dropsy: her lips and nose and other parts of her face shewed a deep blue tinge; her breathing was laborious under exercise; the pulse eighty; the thirst not very great; but the most formidable symptom was a large heavy tumour, which appeared to be suspended from the liver, or from the parietes of the abdomen, being very flaccid and flabby from the rapid waste of flesh, you could raise it up with your hand, and be sensible of its enormous size and weight.—She was immediately put under the red oxyd of iron, with squills, and very spare doses of calomel, in addition to drinking the water, and a warm bath every second day.—The first change observable was in her complexion; the lady began to lose her blue tint from her lips and nose, in about a fortnight; and in six weeks, the tumour was very materially lessened; and in two months she talked of leaving off her medicine.

In short, she got quite well, and the tumour did not return during my acquaintance with her, and she came to visit the place the year after, in good health; and has visited Middleton this year, (1834,) quite well.

Mr. ———, a captain of a ship, about fifty, came to Middleton in very bad condition. He was highly jaundiced; had a hard and much enlarged liver; the abdomen was hard and much distended; and legs and thighs very œdematous; a great thirst, no appetite; and very short in his breathing, particularly in walking or being laid horizontally. I gave this

man a third of a grain of elaterium every three hours till it produced nausea.—If this be persevered in, we soon have a great explosion from the bowels, which is generally succeeded by a copious flow of urine, which was the case now; and when the effects of the elaterium was passed away, he was put under the red oxyd, with squills, calomel, and digitalis, and left Middleton very well. I took the liberty of giving him a lecture, on departing, upon his mode of living, which I wish he had attended to, as he returned three years after in a hopeless condition.

After the first season that this gentleman was at Middleton, I had another of the same profession, of a much lighter make, and better complexion, in general dropsy: he had insatiable thirst, so treacle beer, with one ounce of cream of tartar to the gallon, was the order of the day; and the following powder every four hours, which had in the end a very good effect.

℞ Potassæ Nitrat. gr. xij.
Pulv. Digital. gr. i. P. Scillæ gr. ij.
Pulv. Sem. Hyos. gr. ij. Calomel ¼.
P. Arromat. gr. ij. Sach. Alb. gr. v.
m. ft. Pulv.

After taking it two days, we made the interval six hours; and after the urine began to flow freely, only three times a day sufficed. Before this gentleman left us, I thought it necessary to give him the solution of oxyd ferri. rub. a week, by way of STEELING him,—but I have since heard that he keeps fair health.

An old gentleman came to Middleton from Northumberland afflicted with ascites as well as anasarca; he had been a farmer all his life, and I believe of temperate habits, his thirst was great and urine very scarce—he was prescribed a quarter of a grain of elaterium to be repeated every three hours. The result was as usual, a nausea for some hours, and after that a dreadful explosion from his bowels and a discharge of urine, which emptied him completely in two days, when he went home and I heard no more from him.

Melæna, with General Dropsy.

An unmarried lady, about forty, came to Middleton from one of the northern sea-ports; she was a very bad colour, her skin being a sort of dusky green, and the digestive organs much deranged. She now and then threw up a small quantity of a pitchy looking fluid, and her stools were often nearly black but more frequently resembling putty but somewhat darker, her pulse was in general about eighty. She made little urine, but it was not of so bad a colour as might be expected: there was much pain and soreness about the region of the liver, which seemed under examination, both hard and enlarged, and the pain frequently shot over to the opposite side. In this way she had been some months when she found out Middleton.

I began with the red oxyd of iron, with squills, and a quarter of a grain of calomel, which were repeated

every four hours. In a very few weeks her colour was changed, and the rest of her body and limbs quite reduced; the region of the liver too had lost its wonted pain and soreness. From the favourable account she had given of her recovery to her friends, they had begun to visit her, when she was taken off by apoplexy in the middle of the night. This termination of dropsy remains an opprobrium to our art, which we know not how to remedy.

Neuralgia Ophthalmica.

About the close of the year 1826, there was a long continuance of easterly winds about Darlington, and colds and rheumatisms prevailed very much. About the latter end of November we were called to a man who was suffering severely; he was a hind to a wealthy farmer of this place, and had been in consequence much exposed to the cold bleak winds then prevailing. The medical person who had been attending him about a month had made his family understand that he laboured under fever in the brain.—From what we could gather he had been attacked at first with a violent shivering fit, which terminated in a dreadful pain in the centre of his eyeball; after some weeks suffering it had now got possession of both his eyes, and was intermittent, but with no regularity. When the fit came on he complained of an acute deep-seated pain in his head, which was generally accompanied with violent convulsions, and although he was a strong courageous man his severe suffering

made him bawl out like a child.—The antiphlogistic plan had already been carried to a great extent; he had lost much blood both locally and generally without any relief. The outer coats of the eyes did not appear much inflamed, the colour could only be called a PINK, and no part was bloodshot:—but what seemed to occasion the greatest torture was the convulsive extension of the muscles of the orbits, which drew the eyes in various directions, attended with a powerful strabysmus and the loss of his senses for a few minutes.—We commenced with a strong ammoniated guaiacum mixture with a good proportion of opium.

Whatever experienced practitioner has had a case of this kind will readily acknowledge that it is not WHISTLED off. Although we had every reason to believe that the medicine was well adapted to his case, yet the disposition to return was so powerful, both my son, (Dr. B. Peacock,) and myself, who jointly attended him, where much afraid that some organic lœsion would take place; as cases are related from the continent where the eye has suppurated under its torments, or some cruel surgeon has amputated the eyeball to save this terrible alternative.—I do not scruple to say that the medico-chirurgical faculty are in general too fond of operations, and if they had pursued with as steady a zeal the art of curing dangerous and painful diseases by medicine instead of using the knife, they would in time acquire double the credit in the cure, as our father in surgery, Mr. Pott, frequently remarked in his lectures.

After we had got through this man's case, we had another, in a young shoe-maker who had been playing fives late in an evening, and when he was attacked it was by a violent shivering, which returned two successive days, and then missed him two or three days: but in this young man it only occupied the right eye.—Before I saw him he had put upon his right temple a leather plaister spread with shoe-makers wax,—and as he begged hard to retain it upon his face, I made no objection during a few days, when it was removed for the purpose of applying fomentations of cap. papav. alb. which I find well adapted to the end in view.—This case gave way most completely in about three weeks, under guaiacum and opium. But about this time we were meeting with cases almost every day; some weak and others more formidable, which all gave way to the means described above.—In some it was a little worse than a smart rheumatism; but there was so much of it in this country that winter it occasioned a good deal of alarm.

About this time a lady and gentleman on their way to the south of France, were cast away on the Isle of Wight, and as they both stood in need of medical assistance they were removed to Southampton to obtain it.

The gentleman, it seems, had this painful complaint in his eyes; and suffering immense tortures under the depletory system, one of his eyes suppurated, and he lost it.—His mother, who lived in Darlington, could not be kept at home any longer;

but in the midst of a cold winter set off with the resolution to bring him home, which she effected in a very few days, although suffering under indescribable pangs: and well was it for this young gentleman that we had seen those other awful cases before; for without that, the other eye would have gone after the first, for when he arrived in Darlington it was certainly in a most serious condition; however we set to work in the usual way, and in less than two months it was free from disease.

I have neglected to remark, that we did not refuse our patients in this disease a pint of ale or two, or three glasses of wine, every day.—The pain took away the appetite for solids.

Pain from Exhaustion.

Whether I designate this chapter aright, I cannot say, as I am so little disposed to theorise;—and those who like this employment may settle it their own way; it is from the mode of cure that I have taken up the idea.

A gentleman, apparently between forty and fifty, came to our popular watering place, Middleton, with a violent deep-seated pain in his head; which upon any exertion, as walking, or lifting even a moderate weight, threw him into convulsions, apparently of the epileptic kind.—I found, upon enquiry, he had had some troubles upon him, which he had dwelt upon a good deal.—His pulse was about eighty-six, and neither hard nor strong; the eyes were not red, but

the pupils were a little larger than we generally meet with in health; the urine sometimes very pale, and in good quantity; from what I could learn, the depletory system had been carried to some extent; after emptying his bowels, I gave him the following powder, to be repeated every six hours.

℞. Pulv. Ipecac. Comp. gr. vj.
Pulv. Aromat. gr. iij.
Calomel Opii. Pulv. ana. gr. ss. m. ft. Pulv.

This medicine released him from his sufferings very soon, so that in a few days he was enabled to go home.

I was called in to consult upon the case of a carpenter, in Piersebridge, who had long suffered under an intense pain in the head, which had, with some reason, been supposed to proceed from occasional inflammation of the membranes of the brain.—The pupils of his eyes were rather contracted; his pulse from a hundred to a hundred and ten, when the pain was bad; and when it was upon him a sudden shake, or a false step, was very inconvenient.—The depletory practice was pushed to no purpose.—This case was a puzzle; but the compound ipecacuanha, with small doses of opium and calomel, restored him.

A near neighbour to me, had a fine well-grown child, about three years old, who had been observed to droop a good deal during a fortnight or more; a strong light, or a noise, both offended him; he frequently was observed to rest his head upon one of

the chairs, and often screamed suddenly, putting his hand to his head; his bowels were costive, and his stools very dark; his pulse ran two or three changes during the twenty-four hours, but the heat of the skin was always great—and the tongue always white; he had an acute pain always in his belly.

The first step was to purge him briskly,—but this made no change in the colour of his stools. The pupils now became large, accompanied with a complete strabysmus, and frequently flushings of the face: as his plaints from his head and belly were now becoming very intense, I ordered him gtt. vij. tinct. opii. to be repeated every three hours.—I was greatly encouraged when I found him quite calm and placid under this medicine. When he had taken it five times, the dose was increased to eight drops every four hours. He complained a little of his belly during the night; but we had no more of those shocking yells from the shoots into his brain. The next morning I gave him his purge again, and repeated it every three hours till it had the full effect. —After this the opiate was continued every four hours till his stools began to take their natural hue, which was in about three days;—whether it was the opium which brought about these changes I cannot yet say; but it is worth the while of those who attend children's dispensaries to make themselves fully acquainted with its mode of action till more is known.

I had scarcely got the last case recovered before I was called to a little girl of four years old, in Darlington;—but in this child the disease made more

rapid progress at the commencement:—one of her first symptoms was great heat and pain in her forehead, with pain in her belly, and very quick pulse, along with dark stools, and her bowels very slowly acted upon. Jalap, scammony, and calomel, were now the order of the day; but these were attended with little relief, and no change of colour. The pupils were generally large when in health; and her hair light coloured; she was much inclined to keep her bed; and her pulse from being one hundred and thirty, had now got to be a little more than sixty, with a palpable strabysmus, and the pupils much enlarged. I was resolved to delay no longer, but gave her tinct. opii. gtt. ix. and repeated this dose every three hours; except every now and then we rested upon our oars for the sake of giving the purgatives;—but from the time of the opiate being given, there was an evident relief from pain, and the parents of the child made this remark with great joyfulness. I have the satisfaction to state, that in the third day of giving the opiate, her stools got more natural, and she had no more pain.

The three following cases are so incredible, I shall be obliged to give the names and what else I know of my patients, to be believed; however, upon enquiry, every tittle will be found authentic.

Henry Thompson, Esq. was brought up at Bowes, near Barnard-Castle, where he has a brother at present; he was of that class called yeomanry. But about middle life he engaged with two others in a very extensive commercial speculation, and happening

to succeed, they were left immensely rich; and when this gentleman sent for me he had a most sumptuous establishment of carriages and servants. Mrs. Terry, of Darlington, had requested him to put himself under my care, and he took a house about half a mile from Darlington; but whilst his house was getting ready, it came into his head to consult a noted physician at Newcastle, from whence he returned without experiencing any relief.—This, he told me, was the thirtieth physician he had consulted since the commencement of the disease, and the fiftieth surgeon. His disease was constipation of the bowels; he had been six months and two weeks without any discharge that could be called a stool of any kind or consistence. When our patient was hungry, he swallowed any thing he took a fancy to; such as game, half-raw beef steaks, rich soups, &c. &c. And about half an hour afterwards, he irritated his throat with two or three feathers, which made him disgorge what he had taken, and in a few hours he was fit for another meal. Sometimes he made a little urine, but very little and thick, and about an orange colour; and some such orange coloured fluid as this came up with what he vomited: but it would have required the pencil of John Martin to have given any idea of the horrors which beset you when engaged in a tête à tête with this scarcely human being. The cuticle was nearly the colour of very old mahogany, and adhered so closely to the bone, that a careless person might have mistaken it for veneering, or a covering of the bone with a dark pigment.—

Mr. T. was more than six feet high, with large bones, and so much emaciated, that I have proposed frequently, as a query, whether it was possible to scrape an ounce of flesh off his bones from any part of his body: he could not ride upon the softest carriage seat,—so that when he attempted exercise he rested upon his wife's arm, and could paddle about fifty yards in a day.—Their house, in Blackwell, was surrounded with a high wall, and frequently the poor villagers had to pay for the gratification of their curiosity, by peeping into the garden when he was using exercise; for it was not uncommon for the women and children to take fits when they got a glimpse of him,—indeed their screams were beyond description, and at length the gates had to be locked entirely. When you patted his sides with your fingers, you were conscious you were striking a large wallet of pebbles—he scarcely had any suffering which could be called pain.—I examined him very minutely, and among other questions I asked him if he was ever sick, and he said never in his life; at this I could not help breaking out into a laugh in his face, for which he gravely rebuked me for making his misfortune the source of merriment, —but I certainly never had so pleasant a laugh in my life, for it immediately struck me that this monster of a skeleton might be made well; and as it tickled my fancy, I laughed again and again; and I am not quite sure whether my patient did not send to his friend, Mrs. Terry, to ask if the physician she had sent him was quite SANE; however we com-

menced operations the very next day, and in less than two days he had discharged a full peck of excrement, which had a much nearer resemblance to a peck of black marbles than to any thing else; they were quite as hard, but rather larger, than marbles, and as black as jet, and very little of the natural fœtor. I had put together a very weak purging mixture of the common composition, two tablespoonfuls of which he was directed to take every four hours.—Now, the practised physician will see the occasion of my merriment when it broke out; and if I had not told him what I was about, he would have put five or six grains of antimon. tartar to ℥viij. What were the fifty surgeons and thirty physicians doing during the last six months that they could not hit upon a purgative as mild in its operation as manna is to an infant? for it really did not incommode him at all.—He had not pain nor griping. The only ALARM rested with the POTTERS, among whom, our grape shot made sad destruction. After this, Mr. T. got his flesh apace, and left Darlington in good health, as many here can bear evidence of.

The following case was nearly as marvellous as the last. I was told that DIANA COLTMAN had come to see me from Winton, near Sigston, Northallerton; it was a warm day, and she had come extended upon a mattress on an open car, with very great difficulty; she looked as if she had been a good looking girl, but much emaciated; indeed the account she gave of herself was, that she had been confined in her bed upwards of three years, during which time she had

never taken a mouthful of meat, not even bread.—When she attempted a small morsel, it threw a violent pain into her stomach, which was immediately felt in her head, accompanied sometimes with copious vomitings of blood, and loss of intellect.—At any time if her head was raised she lost her senses, and all power over her legs and arms; but her senses returned when she was laid horizontally. It was curious that ripe fruit never disagreed with her; she could take half an orange, a plum, or a cherry, with a high relish, and never threw them up—the same with gooseberries or grapes. The most striking feature was the loss of sense when her head was raised, and of muscular power in her limbs; when she came to me, her bowels were very slow, but by taking, during the day, ℈j. pilul. cœrul. hydrarg. and as much of the pilul. c. extr. colocynth and washing it down with a mild saline mixture, her bowels became temperate, and her mouth never affected; her urine was scarce till her bowels performed their office well, when we had no further difficulty; her tongue was dry and white, till she had got to take ℈j. of the blue pill every day. She had frequently taken ℥ss. a day, which never occasioned ptyalism; indeed I have remarked upon several occasions, that when a patient took large and repeated doses of mercury to act upon them, it was generally very successful when it did act. Whether this was a spinal case was never demonstrated—from its mode of cure I guessed it was. From the mystery in which the disease was enveloped, many unfavourable

reports were circulated,—but I firmly believe without any foundation in truth ; indeed the notice with which she had been honored by many respectable families in the neighbourhood, was a guarantee that nothing unfair had been practised upon their credulity. And the clergyman of the parish, a gentleman of considerable information, whose benevolence was very largely exercised in supplying the wants of this poor creature, had there been any attempt to counterfeit, would, long before she came to Darlington, have unveiled the impostor. By degrees she suffered her head to be raised a little several times a day, and the convulsions gradually subsided ; but this was effected by a good neighbour, a very strong woman, who had the power of moving her in her arms with great facility, and lost no time during night and day to accustom her to a change of position. On her first arrival at Darlington, her stools were dark, but came gradually to their natural hue, —her diet, whilst here, was chiefly apples and pears, and when she attempted to make it more nutritive her sufferings gradually subsided. I think she was here about three months.

Mr. William Trufitt, a farmer at Hutton-bonville, near Northallerton, had been sometime under the care of the faculty of that neighbourhood, in an obstinate diarrhœa ; at last they sent for me ; I forget how long he had been confined to his bed, but he was almost as shocking an object to look at as Mr. Thompson, with his black marbles. As soon as ever Mr. Trufitt eat any thing, he had a strong

pressure to stool, which came away almost unchanged, and not in the least fœculent; he had much thirst, and sometimes his stools were quite liquid, and as thin as gruel, and very little at a time; he really seemed as if he was made on purpose for drinking, although at other times a very sober man;—from being so very bony and thin, his skin was sloughing off from all parts of him. Astringent medicines by the mouth, as well as enemata, had been fully tried, but did not give ease; his pulse was forty—I was not to let him sink without an effort.—I recommended to his family to rub into his arms and thighs ʒss. ung. hydrarg. fort. during every six hours, night and day. I need not comment as I go along; the experienced physician will see what I am about;—his diet was now lean broth without any vegetables. At the end of the sixth day there was no peculiar smell in his breath, nor any soreness or redness of the gums.—I was resolved, if possible, to have a determination to his upper works.—They still rubbed on, and I gave my patient five drops of Fowler's SOLUTIO MINERALIS three times a day, in a spoonful of spring water.—On the fourth day of giving this medicine, the countenance was evidently bloated —but ptyalism had not ensued; but I nevertheless sang Io Pæans all the way home. It is only a man who has the interest and credit of his profession entirely at heart who can be aware of the pleasure I felt in returning home that evening. I had not miscalculated—he recovered gradually, but straight-forward, from that day. Ptyalism was a failure. We fre-

quently meet with people who are proof against MERCURY,—but the enlargement of the head, and the eruption upon the skin, did the business equally well. In intricate cases, I have been frequently helped out by this revulsionary practice, and were it more studied in the hands of attentive practitioners, it might be brought to do much good.

CONSTIPATION.

A young lady at a boarding school in this place, had been three days under an obstinate constipation, attended by a regular physician and surgeon, without any prospect of relief. When I was sent for, her mother had arrived from Sunderland, and she had two aunts in attendance when I saw her. The tension of the abdomen was great, and increasing every hour. I dare say nothing was neglected in the usual routine of medicine by the mouth or enemata, as well as bleeding and warm bath,—but a fear had now begun to prevail, that a truce could not be kept up with the stomach to allow any medicine to pass the intestines; she had already violent retchings, and began to loath the medicines exceedingly.—I set the mother and both aunts to work with sheep bladders over their hands, with directions to keep rubbing the following liniment into our patient wherever she could bear it after it became impracticable upon the abdomen from the increased tenderness.—I made an appointment to see them in good time in the morning,—but before I set out in the morning, the

family sent to inform me that the young lady had obtained complete relief: the evacuations were dark coloured and copious, but no inconvenience now remained.—The mercurial action was not established, but it was verging that way.

THE LINIMENT.

℞ G. Camphor. ʒij.
Sol. in cerat. cetacei. ℥j.
et adde ung. Hydrar. fort. ℥iss. m.

In an extensive practice, cases of constipation, often bordering on inflammation, are frequently met with. I never failed to succeed when I was content with giving a grain of calomel every quarter or half an hour; particularly if I began with the calomel before the retchings came on. When practitioners are defeated in these complaints, it is frequently owing to administering too much medicine by the mouth, as the stomach is often very irritable—but should even anorexia take place, I do not know a better medicine for quieting the stomach than small and frequent doses of calomel, with a blister to the scrobiculus cordis.

Sometimes the intestinal canal in constipation, is so callous to every impression, that I have found my account, in increasing the doses of calomel, to gr. v. every hour; by rubbing the abdomen well with the above liniment: under this treatment I do not deceive my fellow practitioners, when I declare, that in an extensive practice of fifty years, I never lost a patient

under the above circumstances.—I furthermore say, that I never knew it necessary to let salivation take place; and when it does take place, it does not facilitate the cure;—as soon as the mercurial action takes firm hold, as may be found by the offensive breath or tender gums, the medicine should be immediately withdrawn.

Our success with diseases of the bowels, as well as anorexia from various causes, with small doses of calomel, made my associate, Dr. Macfarlan, and myself, resolve to try calomel in small doses in cholera, when it was very prevalent in Darlington, in August, 1832. We had seen one case only in the month of April, in this year, which was treated in the Asiatic manner, with large doses of calomel and opium, which did not succeed.

But as soon as we administered a grain of calomel every ten minutes, washing it down with a draught of cold spring water, we did not lose one patient, although several of them did not send for assistance till their hands and feet, and some of them their faces, were a deep black blue; we had twenty-three cases in August, and before the disease left the country we had thirty, not one of whom died; although there were spiteful and unprincipled people to be found who were ready to say that we had not the Asiatic cholera in Darlington.—But their motive for saying so was very good to understand.—Had two-thirds of them died, as was the case in many places, they would have been ready enough to allow it to have been cholera. But I have often remarked,

that I have made more enemies by a successful practice than an adverse. Were there need, I could produce a host of evidence that many of our patients had dark blue extremities, with every other symptom of Asiatic cholera, and recovered.—What do the sceptics say to this?

In September I sent an account of our mode of treating the cholera to the London Medical and Physical Journal, edited by North and Burnett, which came out on the first of October; and I trust would do good, as at this time I did not know of any regular or successful practice throughout the kingdom.

Hydatids.

A Lady in the north, somewhat connected with the navy, had been sometime pestered with these equivocal beings, for which she had been in the habit of pouring in broadsides of the most drastic purgatives, which generally brought some away.—They occupied the whole of the intestinal canal, but luckily had not found out any of the other cavities—but she could accurately distinguish where they were; they occupied the upper part of the gullet, and the whole of the stomach and intestines.—As soon as I was honored with the command, I was resolved to "board" them, which I did very promptly, with large doses of the Calais sand of the shops, stirred up in treacle and mixed with the briskest purgatives in our possession. The enemy

soon "surrendered at discretion," and in greater numbers than I had any previous conception of. The lady has had no return.

Case II.

I had no sooner succeeded in the above case, than I was called to a poor woman upon Houghton Hill, who suffered more from Hydatids than any person I ever met with, for they not only occupied the alimentary canal, but as far as we could judge, every cavity in the body, and many places where there was no possibility of an outlet without the fortuitous formation of abscesses.—Those which occupied the intestinal canal were very large,—fully the size of a pullet's egg; these I could bring away with my SCOURING PLAN, but I could distinctly feel upon the surface of the liver and spleen, clumps of an irregular form, which could be nothing else but these hateful parasites. At one time, after a great deal of pain in the region of the uterus, an abscess broke away from that part, with a large quantity of hydatids, surrounded with purulent matter of a most terrible stench, — but none of these animals were bigger than an ordinary gooseberry, and were of a dark slate colour. When we attend to all circumcumstances, it will strike every one that there was no chance to cure this poor woman; but we went on palliating and relieving her as much as we could, till a neighbouring parson, who stood well in his own conceit, without speaking to me or knowing

my opinion of her, peremptorily took her from me and put her under another practitioner.—She soon after this left this part of the country, and I was informed, died.

Pain at the Stomach with Indigestion.

Perhaps fully half of the patients we are called to are afflicted with this complaint under a variety of forms. It generally attacks the patient about an hour after dinner; there is usually a good deal of soreness about the region of the stomach, and the pain frequently shoots into the breast, attended with much heat, as if the parts concerned had been burned; and there is often a great wish for cold drink, as well as throwing off the clothes; acid eructations are frequent, and are often very offensive.—The bowels are slow; yet often an inaction of two or three days will terminate with a watery stool or two. A frequent symptom of this disease, is vomiting after a meal, and the skin is a bad colour and feels tight, as if glued to the cellular membrane.—The pulse is often not hurried in the first stages of the disease, but becomes quick and hard as it advances.

Patients of this description have now and then a sinking sensation, as if they were going to faint, and thus are induced to apply to cordials of different descriptions to prevent it. They will often make a hearty meal of savory dishes, and persuade themselves that they would sink without it; and although

generally an hour or two brings on a painful remorse, they are prepared for some fresh delicacy of the table—perhaps the next day; and thus they go on, sinning and repenting, till a train of unlooked for evils finishes the scene.

Our English physicians are confessedly well skilled in medicine. Whilst this painful complaint was supposed to have its origin in a weakness or loss of tone of the stomach, many ingenious plans of tonic remedies were broached in England, which as often disappointed our poor patients; but still they were looked up to with implicit reverence, as they were prescribed by the same learned and fashionable physician as invented the bacon collop; so that whilst the fashionables were coaxing the sovereigns out of the pockets of the English gulls, the French physiologists, by keeping journals of the symptoms of diseases during life, and having careful post mortem examinations, established a system of pathology which left the votaries of fashion far behind.

I am no stickler for systems, and seldom refer to them; only as a successful practice was fairly established upon Broussais' pathology of this disease, it is not easy to lose sight of it.—He found that a sort of chronic inflammation was formed upon the mucous membrane which lines the stomach, which was at the commencement only a pale red,—but as the disease advanced, became a deep red, and in bad cases, often black. He found that the complaint was frequently aggravated by eating savoury food, and taking strong drink. And he founded a suc-

cessful practice by abating the heat and thirst by mild mucilaginous drinks, acidulated with lemon juice, and debarring his patients from eating animal food or using hot spices.

It is only to introduce the great benefit derived from this change of diet given to the world by Dr. Broussais, that I have dwelt upon the discovery of the French physicians. Ever since I was made acquainted with this improvement, which is about ten years, I must gratefully own that my practice in stomach complaints has been very successful. When the case can be fairly made out to be owing to the SUB-inflammation of the mucous membrane of the stomach, the spare diet, with a very little sedative medicine, is almost infallible. But we very frequently meet with a disordered stomach which is sympathetic of some disease of a distant part, and will of course puzzle us till we get the mystery unravelled.—This, as well as a disturbance of the functions of the stomach where inflammation has nothing to do, we cannot expect to be benefitted by low diet, or extreme abstinence;—but happily, Dr. Elliotson, of London, has struck out a remedy in the hydrocyanic acid, which in those cases which are not attended with any inconvenience in pressing the fingers upon the pit of the stomach, generally relieves, but it must be confessed that these cases are not so frequently subdued as those to which the low diet is adapted. Although this affliction of the stomach occurs so frequently in this island, the medical practitioner will find his countrymen submit with a very

bad grace to be deprived of his BELLYFUL;—indeed I have found many of them who considered cramming their stomachs with roast beef as a sort of religious duty, and conceived their country would be no longer prosperous without they were filled almost to choking twice every day with animal food. I am glad I can give a better account of the female part of my patients—their constancy under a resolution once made, has often been exemplary—for there must be expected to be a little suffering before old habits are relinquished.

I have not found it necessary to make their diet so excessively meagre as that of the French physicians.—I allow them a small piece of fish, with pudding, and any vegetable they may relish—with tea and coffee, being rather sparing of butter upon the toast; these, with milk and oatmeal, Lais de Poule, rice milk, boiled barley with milk, chocolate, sago with milk, frumenty, &c. will be sufficient nourishment, and will not painfully stimulate a diseased stomach. But I have found my patients, after faithfully conforming a few weeks, so attached to the plan, that no bribe would make them return to their carnivorous repast.—And although their good friends have often anticipated diseases of weakness to follow the use of so mild a diet, I challenge the world to produce me one patient who has not been more vigorous and more alert from a perseverance in it.

Epilepsy.

The following was a very extraordinary case of epilepsy, attended with very peculiar symptoms.—A farmer's son, in a healthy part of the country, went every day to school, and was considered a quick boy at his book, &c. All at once, without any accident, he began to shew a defect in his writing and spelling, —then his reading was full of blunders, without his shoolmaster being able to account for it; his speech was next found amiss, as well as his sight and his hearing; and he was discovered to become very peevish in his temper, and soon after he was seized with severe epileptic fits. At the first he only had two or three in the day and night.—But when he was brought into lodgings near Darlington, to be under my care, he took ten or twelve in the twenty-four hours. When in the fit, he struggled as is usual in epilepsy, with one arm more than the other, and the head turned to one side; but it was not usual for the face to be dark coloured, as is frequently the case in epilepsy. In ordinary epilepsy, the patient, after the fit, seems to think he is rising in the morning; but this boy, upon the least return of sense, began to fight his mother with both hands with the greatest eagerness, and as soon as he had done with his mother he ran up the highest places he could climb with great celerity.—A tree, a ladder, a wall, was his usual choice, or the highest furniture in a house—these he scampered up like a monkey,

without making any mistakes—but he was not so successful in getting down again, but was obliged to be assisted by his friends. Although the fits were so freqnent I do not remember him taking one during his very numerous ascensions.—He had been rather a strong boy, and as he always slept with his mother duriug the disease she had very hard work in battling him during his turbulence. He had no particular choice of food but took hastily and indiscriminately generally whatever was given him. He was often confined in his bowels for which he had to take medicine; and as his stomach was not at all keckish, antimon. tart. formed a considerable portion of his aperient.

As soon as he came under my immediate care, I gave him five drops of solut. mineral. Fowlerii twice every day, and it was never changed from the first day of his arrival to his going away quite well—but a little alteration was, I confess, made in the MENSTRUUM sometimes in which it was administered. I should have said, that during the worst of his malady he had a clean tongue rather pink than red, dilated pupils, and generally made sufficient pale urine.

The power of the medicine was first perceived in the abatement of the fits—they became less frequent and less strong—his speech and his senses were gradually restored—he began to walk with a firmer step and not in such fits and starts—and his poor mother at last had the happiness of finding herself

restored to the affections of her dear boy who became himself again.

Head Ache.

We frequently meet with people who have most violent and distracting head aches from various and opposite causes, yet always difficult of relief.—The cases are so one like another, and the cure accomplished by such simple means, it is hardly worth while running into the detail of cases—although my memory would furnish me with ten or twenty at a call. But let those who are subject to such dreadful pangs take the following medicine as directed, and I shall be much disappointed if a few minutes does not convince the sufferer of its efficacy.

℞ Bac. Capsici. ℈ij.
Gum Arabic gr. x.
Syr. Alb. q. s. ft. Pil. xx. quar. sum. iv. 2da. quaq. hora dolore urgenti.

It is useful to wash them down with a little cold water—but there is seldom occasion to take more than one dose as they take away the pain like magic.

Epilepsy

is so frequently met with, and the etiology so little known, that I fear it will not add to our knowledge of the nature of the disease if I recount a great number of cases.—As I cannot make my reader comprehend, because I cannot account for it myself, why

one patient remains well for life, whilst another under the same medicine has a return of the disease in a month or two. The medicine I give to an adult is the following, which is taken in a little cold water, and repeated three times a day.

℞ Pulv. Strych. Nuc. Vomicæ gr. iv. ad gr. v.
Pulv. Cinchonæ gr. xv.
Carbon. Sodæ
Pulv. Aromat. ana gr. ij. m. f. Pulv.

I never knew this medicine disagree with any one; but the patient should persevere in it during some weeks after the fits have vanished; and I trust the practitioner will be seldom disappointed in the use of it. But there is one circumstance must be attended to.—Every medical man will now and then find cases of epilepsy interwoven with hysteria; there will be a difficulty in deglutition, much flatulency shown by a distension of the stomach and intestines, with sometimes laughing and crying. When the disease is not suspended by taking the above powders three times a day, during a fortnight, there will be reason to suspect that it has an hysterical origin, and the following pills must be resorted to instead of the powders, four every four hours during the day and night, washing them down with a little cold water.

℞ Pulv. Zingib. ʒj.
—— G. Camphor ℈ss.
Muc. G. Arabic q. s. ft. Pilul. 90.

A few years ago I had a very extraordinary case

in a very muscular young man, by trade a skinner, in Darlington, who was ill a week before I was called in; and so powerful were his exertions during the fit, that he had given employ to five or six strong men, night and day during that week, to keep him from harms way. I put him under complete and constant COERCION, and gave him four of these pills every four hours, which in three days completely cured him, and up to this time he has had no return.

I should caution the profession not to give camphor in pills, without it is united with an aromatic, as without it the pills pass the intestines entire, and have no effect.

CURIOUS ULCERATION.

A tradesman of Stockton, who had previously good health, was sent as supercargo in a vessel to the south of Europe, and was taken prisoner during the last war, by the French, and confined a long time in prison. During his incarceration, a small tumour formed upon his ancle; on its first appearance, it was nothing more than a sore red pimple, but increased in size every week considerably, so that when he got home it was a large ulcer.—His surgeon put him under mercury and sarsaparilla, which aggravated his complaint so much, that he was induced to apply to another, who was so positive in his opinion of the nature of its origin, that he prevailed upon the patient to follow up the use of the mercury

with great spirit, which increased the sore to such a degree, that when he applied to me (which was a few months after his return home) the whole of the integuments were gone both from his foot and leg, and it had now reached about an inch above the patella, attended with a loose ragged edge. The reader will understand that the whole of the leg and foot was one continuous ulcer, with a very offensive and copious ichorous discharge, with the constitution very much broken. I had seen something of this kind before, which caused me to set to work with great confidence; for this purpose too, he took a lodging in Darlington. I ordered him some pills composed of

G. Opii.
Confect. Aromat. an gr. ij. ft. Pilul, j.

He had directions to take one of these pills every six hours, and to apply some of the following ointment, on a thick pledget of fine tow, over the whole leg and foot.

℞ Opii. Colat. ʒiss
Ag. Font. ℥j.
Pulv. Sach. Alb. ʒss.
Ceræ Alb. ʒiij.
Ung. Cetacei. ʒiss. m.

The above must be stirred over a gentle fire till the water is dissipated, and suffered to cool whilst stirring. After taking four of the pills and having his leg dressed a second time, I called to see him, when he assured me he had been in heaven at least

twelve hours.—As he was not a disciple of Baron Swedenbourg, I gave him full credit for his assertion. His urine began to be rather scarce after he had used these means about a fortnight, so I reduced the pill to half the strength; the most beautiful granulations were now shooting up every day, and in about a month a most active cicatrization was going on.—In about three months his leg was perfectly healed.

Ulceration continued.

A young naval officer, who had been stationed in a warm climate during three years, came home much out of health; he had excessive pain in his legs and arms, and large and very offensive ulcers in many parts of his body, intermixed with dark spots about the size of a sixpence, particularly about his back and breast, and the outsides of his legs and arms—he did not complain of any pain in the shin bones, except a little during the night. He was very impatient for me to promise to give him no mercury, as it had, he said, already nearly killed him. I treated him in the same manner as the preceding case,—he was immediately relieved, and the ulcers got rapidly well, and in a month he was in fair health. I never heard what became of him.

Phlegmasia Dolens in a Male.

A man, with a small farm near Darlington, was

seized with PHLEGMASIA DOLENS. He was in general a healthy man, but of a pale complexion, and about forty years of age; a sober married man, with a family.—It only occupied his right leg and thigh, and reached to the exact centre of the symphysis pubis.—The whole limb was much paler than in its natural state, and was very large and tense, and extremely sensible to the touch; in appearance it was what in a very fat sheep the butchers call CLOVEN—that is, full of a sort of dimples, or rather eminences and depressions; upon touching the limb with your finger, it did not PIT like an œdematous limb.—At first the bowels were opened with a brisk purgative, and as soon as this was done, a liniment was well rubbed upon the limb, composed of equal parts of unguent hydrarg. fort. cerat. cetacei. and ol. terebinth: in four days the limb was evidently much reduced, and through perseverance, was in a short time perfectly restored;—the urine during this process had, as we might have expected, a smell of violets.

TYPHUS FEVER.

DARLINGTON has nine or ten thousand inhabitants. The low typhus fever sometimes gets into the town, but I never knew it disposed to spread; so that whether it is contagious or not I never had an opportunity of ascertaining. A few years ago a married woman went into the country to harvest work, and brought home a very malignant typhus fever into a

narrow dirty alley, where she resided.—She had, in the latter stages, very putrid symptoms; and as her neighbours went indiscriminately to see and assist her, it was expected that the inhabitants of that very filthy place, at least, would have taken it; but, I believe, it was not at that time communicated to another person in the town. I have often thought that the inhabitants of this town are not so liable to be acted upon by epidemical diseases, as those of the villages. In the progress of the typhus through the country, I have more than once had an opportunity of observing that it preserves a straight line.

In the winter of 1823, when the snow was a great depth upon the ground, the typhus fever came upon the village of Blackwell, which is pleasantly situated and very clean; nearly the whole of the village was seized at once, and after it had expended its malignancy here, it crossed the Skerne, and traversing the detached houses on the SOUTH SIDE of Yarm lane, without ever crossing the road, paid a visit to Yarm; here it prevailed very generally, and after this pursued the line to Hutton Rudby, and from thence to Stokesley,—from Stokesley it was carried to the little villages among the hills on the south-east, which have scarcely ever been free from it since. When the disease was making its progress to the south-east, it did not seem to be assisted by the direction of the wind—as the wind had changed several times before it approached the eastern hills.—I have no theories, and cannot conjecture how the epidemic kept so straight a line; neither can I guess what it

has been doing among the hills ever since. The typhus fever prevailed very much in the spring of this year, (1833,) in the villages in the neighbourhood of Darlington; but in general was not fatal, except to those who had been in the habit of living intemperately. It generally began with a pain in the head and loins; when the attack was sudden, it was often ushered in with a shivering, frequently with some pain and tension of the stomach—but the disease frequently took possession gradually, there being languor and want of appetite some days before the disease was formed. Should there be on the first attack, pain in the head, a quick pulse, or any other inflammatory symptoms, we give a brisk purge with calomel and jalap, and at bedtime the following anodyne.

℞ Misturæ Camphor ℥j.
Tinct. Opii. gtt. xv. ad xx. m. ft. Haustus.

The purgative is sometimes repeated on the second, and even the third day, if the vessels shew inflammatory action, and the anodyne is repeated every night if no comatose symptoms are detected. When the turbulence of the system begins to subside, and the tongue is more moist, and the pulse less labouring, we have found no medicine so useful as the following powder, taken in a little cold water every three hours, night and day.

℞ Pulv. Cinchon. ℈j.
Carbon. Sodæ.
Pulv. Aromat. an gr. ij.
—— Nucis. Vomicæ gr. v. m. ft. Pulv.

When the patient complains of a burning heat upon his skin, a tepid bath of ninety-six, in which he may remain five minutes, or washing his body and limbs with warm vinegar and water, often gives relief.—But the only peculiarity of our practice in fever, is the use of the strychnos; and in low and sunken cases, it has often a wonderful effect.

Schirrous Pylorus.

The pathology of this dreadful complaint is not easily ascertained; only it is certain that our patients will frequently die of it, and the nature of the disease has then been ascertained by dissection; and when we find another labouring under the same train of symptoms, as far as we can make out, we have a right to suppose they proceed from schirrous pylorous. Some indigestion, with much depression of the strength and spirits, are generally the forerunners of this complaint, before the pain and sickness take possession. It frequently happens that the food taken into the stomach, is allowed to accumulate twenty-four hours before it is rejected, and it seems to require a great effort to dislodge it. The fluids of the stomach acquire a very acid taste, and frequently an offensive smell: the patient is always afflicted with heartburn—and frequently what he throws up is dark coloured, and sometimes clear blood; his appetite is uncertain and capricious, and emaciation often makes rapid progress. In some cases a tumour, as big as a large orange, may be

plainly discovered, upon pressure, in the region of the navel. The stools are always dark coloured, and when there is not actual diarrhœa, are generally costive, and wait for aperient medicine. Sometimes there is a very severe pain in the head, at other times only a giddiness. The vomiting and the pulse are equally uncertain. The pulse will sometimes be one hundred and ten, at other times as low as fifty.

A very feeble worn out man came to Middleton from Westmoreland; he was about fifty, and his skin nearly the colour of a frog. He vomited frequently during the day, and the pain at his stomach was almost constant—he had a hard tumour upon the stomach, which could be easily felt near the navel, and was very sensible on the slighest pressure—he had a constant thirst—his pulse about ninety, and feeble—his stools were black, and when he was without a diarrhœa, very costive, and waiting for aperient medicines. Before the violent symptoms were established, he had suffered some months under indigestion, and depression both of strength and spirits, and had taken medicines for the tape-worm, but had never parted with any of that reptile; he often was troubled with heartburn, and what he threw up was very sour and frequently dark coloured —sometimes there was clear blood, and when this happened he always thought he was better for it; he had often a very severe head ache, and frequently a giddiness when the head ache was absent. His appetite was very capricious, but he always suffered after a full meal. He had some pills made with

carbonate of soda and magnesia, each equal parts, and formed into pills with gum water—he took five or six of these whenever the acid prevailed, and five grains of the blue pill every night and morning till he felt it upon his gums,—he then relinquished his morning pill. His bowels were kept open by taking a couple of common aperient pills twice a day, and the colour of his stools improved very much after he had been under this plan a fortnight. I should have said that he always washed down the ANTACID pills with a glass of Dinsdale water. He would often take these pills eight times during the twenty-four hours: after he had been upon this plan two months, every symptom had vanished—his complexion had lost the green hue—the tumour was gone from the region of the navel, and there was no sensibility about the epigastrium; and the man, as well as losing the anorexia, was evidently gaining condition. I had a good account of him six months after he left Middleton;—some of my readers will contend that this was not a case of schirrous pylorus—with all my heart I will not cavil about it—but this I will insist upon, that the man would have died without these measures had been pursued. The watering places of Middleton and Croft furnish cases similar to this every year. I will allow that when a patient goes home, and returns to his old habits of eating and drinking, the complaint frequently returns, but this does not deteriorate the merit of the treatment—we have a right to premise that our patients are to be RATIONAL BEINGS.

I was introduced this summer, (1833) by a former diabetic patient, to a man with a painful stomach complaint. He appeared about sixty—he had been a strong man, but was now much emaciated, and his skin of a leaden hue—he had much soreness about the region of the stomach—had little appetite, but it was requisite that what he eat should accumulate very largely before vomiting ensued, which he always seemed to wish for, as it gave him momentary relief.—The fluids secreted in the stomach were very sour as usual, and often dark coloured like coffee grounds; the stools always black, and very slow; when his bowels were emptied, I gave him the ANTACID pills in the manner of the last patient, with gr. v. of the blue pill at bedtime—which in a little time was taken twice a day. He was better so soon that although he had some relations with him, he could not be prevailed upon to continue his medicine any longer after the sickness and pain had ceased—his relations took a supply of medicines home with them, without his leave—but what became of him afterwards I never learned, as he lived a good way off.

A neighbouring parish, the last winter, put a very bad case under my care,—he had been a very tall, strong, bony man—a hard drinker and a hard worker—what the country people call a HERO OF A FELLOW. The pain in his head, as well as his stomach, was almost constant; he had black stools, with difficulty procured—he disgorged his food at irregular intervals, with a copious secretion of a very sour fluid, sometimes of a dark colour—his eyes

were very much sunk, and his countenance horrid—he had not worked for a long time, but there was no want of inclination, — his weakness was pitiable. The stomach was sore and tense, and the pain severe, but the round tumour upon the pylorus was not well defined; his pulse was hard and quick, and his tongue very foul, with much thirst. This patient was treated in the same manner as the preceding—but his complaint was much more slowly acted upon—it was not till September that he ventured to contract with the surveyor of the Yarm road for the breaking of the stones. It will scarcely be credited, that in the first week he earned sixteen shillings by his own labour, and whilst I am writing (October 24) he has not slackened his exertions.

Lupus.

The lupus, or what is commonly called cancer of the skin, appears in so many different forms, and with such different degrees of acrimony, that it is not easy to give a general description of it;—however, we have hit upon a mode of treating it which often succeeds, and in no case ever did any harm. Those who have deferred applying for assistance till deep ichorus ulcers have formed, or great loss of substance, cannot be introduced as fit cases to judge of the efficacy of the remedy—although there was a girl from Whitby came to Middleton, who had lost the greatest part of her nose, and the complaint was continuing its devastations upon her face and lips,

which was arrested and finally cured. The reader may rest assured that this was not a case of siphilis. There was a Gentleman at Newcastle, and another at Darlington, where the dread complaint had made great ravages before the remedy was applied, which entirely removed it in both cases. Many young people have come to Middleton with incipient cases of this complaint during the last twenty years, and were cured—but perhaps my good brethren of the faculty, because they got well, will be disputing whether they were of the lupus kind. We have had one this summer from Cumberland, which had altered the form of his nose very much, and was making progress till the patient applyed to me. But I presume all these cases, like the successful cases of cholera, will be disputed BECAUSE they were successful. However, if men of candour and industry, who have the care of infirmaries and dispensaries, will have the goodness to make a trial of the following remedy, I think they will be pleased with it.—The part affected is smeared with it two or three times a day, either by the finger, or if the diseased part is very sensible, by means of a camel's hair pencil.

℞ Axung. Porcin. ℥j
Sulph. Prœcip. ℥ss.
Hydrar. Sulph. rubr. gr. x.
m. ft. ung.

As a medicine, I find the following pill, taken three times a day, alleviate the suffering very much.

℞ Opii.
Pulv. Digitalis. an gr. ss.
Syr. q. s. m. ft. Pil. j.

Should the pulse become intermittent after taking this pill a few days, then to take it only twice a day.

Sycosis Menti.

This is perhaps as troublesome a malady as ever poor mortal had to suffer under. It has its name from bearing some resemblance to the pulp of a fig, which as it progresses, gets matted with the hair upon the chin, and sometimes with the scalp—but that upon the chin is by far the most common form of the disease; and I am glad to announce that the means we use for the lupus, externally and internally, has been in every instance successful in the sycosis. Some very ugly cases have applied to the bathing places of this neighbourhood at different times, and none of them went away disappointed. Two of the worst have been a farmer from Hornby, and a coal viewer from Bunker's Hill.—We had also a curious case of a sailor, who had burned his face by an accident; and in getting it well, he having a very strong black beard, this loathsome disease was left upon the premises.

The ointment in the sycosis should be used at least three times a day.

Sciatica and Tic Douloureux.

These complaints are twin-sisters, and they are generally cured by the same means; but very frequently a change of weather—from warm to cold wind—will occasion them to return with all their force. The sciatica can seldom be cured without strict attention be paid to keeping the limb at rest: the tic is not so much incommoded by exercise—but both these terrible diseases require an equable warmth to be kept up upon the part affected.—The pain from both of them is very capriciously acted upon by heat and cold;—the tic is sometimes periodical from the first, and sometimes gets gradually established in that type. — A current of air, and sometimes a warm bed, will bring on an attack of the sciatica; and frequently a sense of warmth will remove the pain entirely. A good eruption, brought out by means of a smart rubefacient, such as the tartrate of antimony, will sometimes give great relief in sciatica. The turpentines are sometimes efficacious in sciatica as well as in tic:—a little Venice turpentine, spread upon brown paper, and applied to the part affected, will sometimes relieve the tic; equal parts of olive oil and oil of turpentine, make a very good liniment, and may be directed against both the complaints by rubbing the pained part well three times a day; and I have found ten or twelve drops of oil of turpentine, taken in a spoonful of cold water or a little honey, useful in both these painful

affections, whatever other medicine the patient is engaged with—ten or twelve drops answer better than a larger quantity.—My sheet anchor for both these affections is the sem: stramonii—

℞ Bac. Capsici ʒj.
Calomel gr. x.
Sem. Stramon. ʒij.
Muc. G. Arabi q. s. m. ft. Pil. Lx.
quar. Sum. j. 4ta quaq. hora.

℞ Opii. ʒj.
Ol. Caryoph. q. s. ft. Pil. xxx.
quar. sum j. dolore. urgente.

℞ Solut. Mineral. Fowler. Cap. gtt. v.
in aq. Font. bis. Indies.

Porrigo Favosa of the Face.

A lady, somewhat advanced in life, was sent me from Edinburgh, with the above complaint, which had fixed upon her nose, and resembled exactly Dr. Bateman's illustration which he gives under that head, in his book of coloured engravings of diseases of the skin. It was a great thick crust or scab, which covered the whole of the nose, and was very disgusting. I gave her a gentle aperient, with a small proportion of iodine in it, and directed her to smear her nose every day twice, with the unguent from the following formula.

℞ Axung. Porcin. ℥iij.
Pulv. Digitalis. ℥ m.

These were kept in an iron ladle over the fire about ten minutes, in about the heat of boiling water, and then strained through linen cloth. I forget how long the lady continued taking her medicine and using her unguent, before the great rugged case to her nose dropped off in one continuous piece.

The lady, I should have said, drank the Middleton water and bathed in the warm bath whilst she remained with us; and did us the honor the next summer, to come and gratify us with a sight of our complete success.

As the above very formidable disease generally originates in a cluster of flat straw-coloured pustules, which form upon the face,—and after breaking, lay the foundation of great thick scabs; yet, if we see the next case, we shall find that the same complaint may form from a different origin.

A pale young lady, of rather a dull complexion, observing a number of small black points upon the sides of her nose, which she and her female friends considered to be worms, had set about pressing them out by means of her finger nails, and thereby inflamed her nose in such a way, that these little puncta threw out a viscous fluid, which soon changed to a formidable crust upon the nose, which would not give way to any lotion till we used the sulphur liniment, with which we have successfully treated the SYCOSIS MENTI.

Tumour.

A post captain of the navy, consulted me for a tumour which had grown upon the blade bone of the left shoulder, and covered the whole of the bone. It was of the ADIPOSE SARCOMA species—and was apparently about two inches deep, but gave no trouble in handling it. He had made several efforts to get rid of it before he came to me.—I advised him to get two light wooden hammers made, just heavy enough each to crack a walnut, and to set his servant to work to hammer the tumour with both hands during two or three hours every day. His servant, who had seen the calkers in the King's dock yards at work, set about it with great spirit, and contrived, in pummeling his master, to do it exactly in CALKING TUNE—however, he roused the absorbents to such a degree, that in a little time the tumour had vanished.

Horns.

A shoe-maker, in the village of Manfield, near Darlington, a strong man, about fifty, applied to me for relief from a complaint which he called HORNS, which were excrescencies—very nearly resembling cockspurs, adhering to the skin in all the most muscular parts of his body—and ONLY in these parts.—They were all erect, and completely imbedded in the skin in the broadest end; the base had a fleshy or

cartilaginous feel, which ran up to a sharp horny point, resembling nothing so closely as the spur of a cock—they were mostly about an inch in length, some of them exceeded it.—I had seen nothing of the kind before—but as the man pressed me much to try something with him, I gave him some powders with hydrarg. et antimon. combined, which soon began to affect his mouth, and in a very few days the whole of the excrescencies rolled off, leaving at the base a small cup, which gradually filled up. He had no return of them during his life.

THE END.

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APPENDIX.

APPENDIX.

CASES
SENT TO THE LANCET,
OCCURRING IN MEDICAL PRACTICE,

BY

J. PEACOCK, M. D.,
DARLINGTON.

TETANUS.

CASE 1.—Elizabeth Copperwaite, aged eleven, the daughter of Robert Copperwaite, of Darlington, had the sole of her foot pierced by a thorn, which was extracted with some difficulty. I was called in on the fourth day after the accident. She complained of her throat being dry and sore, and I found the larynx enlarged and prominent, and the muscles of the neck rigid and very painful; her face was much flushed, and a copious perspiration covered her whole body. The first time that I saw her her pulse was 95: in the evening of the same day it was 105, and during the day she had sometimes complained of a sudden very acute pa in at her *heart*, as she said. There was much difficulty in mastication as well as deglutition, but she could get a

small morsel of boiled barley down more easily than her tea; the wound had healed up entirely. There was now no doubt that this was a case of *Traumatic Tetanus.* Nothing had passed through her bowels since the accident, so I gave her immediately a good smart dose of calomel, scammony, and jalap, but as it did not take effect in three hours, I repeated it, when the medicine acted very briskly. I had long made up my mind, that when I met with a case of tetanus I would make trial of the ol. terebinthinæ, so I immediately gave her xii drops in a little mintwater, which the child took better than her tea; I repeated this every three hours, so long as she had occasion for its use, and in twenty-four hours the muscles were sensibly relaxed. I think that I made her continue it during four days, and then she discontinued it altogether. The medicine was not attended with any inconvenience to the urinary organs.

During the time that the child was suffering, the mother was constantly soliciting me to promise her that "when the child recovered she would again be as *canny* as ever." The purport of this request I confess I did not at first understand, but when the muscles were set at liberty, I found that a very beautiful child was restored to its anxious parents, a result which I could not have guessed whilst she was suffering.

Case 2.—A young lady, aged seventeen, who lives about three miles from Darlington, wounded her hand with a rusty nail, in a very slight way, so as not to draw blood. In a few days her hand and arm became stiff, and very painful on motion, as well as the jaws and muscles of the neck and throat. She was chiefly attended by my partner, Dr. Macfarlan, who had not joined me when the first case came under my care; but as soon as I related the effect to him, he lost no time in administering the turpentine, and after a hard struggle there was every reason to believe that it was made the means of restoring her to health. To be sure the wound was laid open more than once, and many topical applications were used, such as poultices, fomentations, &c.; but as these measures were never before known to be successful in traumatic tetanus, we may fairly give to this

medicine the credit of the cure. It would give me much pleasure to hear that some of the hospital surgeons had made a trial of it.

About twenty drops in a little mint-water, would be a proper dose for an adult.

Darlington, Nov. 30, 1836.

Case 3.—Sir.—I have the pleasure of sending you a *third* case in proof of the utility of turpentine in tetanus, and I trust that some of the hospital surgeons will take the first opportunity of putting the remedy to the test in that desease. For the purpose of seeing our way distinctly, I took care that no other means should be employed at the same time, and as the patient was an adult, the proper dose will be more readily ascertained.

An unmarried lady, residing near Darlington, turned of 40 years of age, in assisting to spit a piece of beef, wounded her thumb with a sharp bone, which caused her a great deal of pain, which she endeavoured to assuage by poultices, but in vain, and not understanding the cause of her sufferring she did not apply for assistance until I was by accident thrown in her way, when she told me that she not only had a lame thumb, but that the whole arm was painfully stiff and rigid, and she could not raise it to her head. The severe symptoms were just taking possession. She complained of having a very bad cold, which affected with pain and stiffness her head, neck and collar-bone, and she had frequent shootings through her chest, and with them painful catchings throughout the whole frame. Her back bone was painfully rigid, and the severest pain was gradually extending itself downwards. Her jaw and throat were dry and painful, but did not prevent her from getting down a trifling morsel of food. I was obliged to declare what was the cause of her sufferings, but of this I immediately repented, for I did not know that she had lately seen in the museum at Edinburgh a painting of a man in the last stage of opisthotouos. I need not say that the information gave her a terrible shock. Sixteen drops of the turpentine were given as soon as possible, with directions that it should be repeated every five or six hours. She did not like the medicine,

as it made her a little sick, but she obeyed her directions religiously, and on the next day she confessed that the painful rigidity of her whole frame was somewhat relaxed. I told her to persevere, and that in another twenty-four hours she would be melted down like snow on a summer's day, which was actually the case.

Considering the little I have seen of this complaint, I have acquired a complete confidence in the remedy; but I should say that during the third night the medicine had a troublesome effect upon the bladder. My patient told me, however, that if it was only occasioned by the medicine, she would bear it cheerfully, as she improved every hour in the tetanic affection. This will put the readers of the LANCET in mind of what Mr. Liston told them some time ago, of the practice of some of the Indian tribes, of wounding the neck of the bladder in tetanus.

We found the bowels readily acted upon by a couple of pills, first prescribed, I think, by Dr. Elliotson, composed of colocynth and aloes, and quickened by croton oil. Dr. Mason Good seems, in my opinion, to labour under a great mistake when he cautions the faculty against given brisk purgatives in tetanus. The few patients I have had of this kind, all seemed essentially benefited by their use.

As tetanus and rabies seem nearly allied, and as nothing has given any relief in hydrophobia, would not the turpentine be worth experiment? Mr. Youatt, of London, is a very intelligent man, and I dare say would render any assistance in his power in testing the medicine. I have the honour to remain, Sir, your most obliged servant,

J. PEACOCK.

Darlington, Jan. 1837.

DIABETES.

Mr. Thomas Graham, of Kiverston, a wealthy and intelligent tenant of the Duke of Cleveland, had been for a long time afflicted with diabetes, when he obtained my little work, entitled "Practical Hints," &c., and had recourse to the medicine re-

commended therein for the treatment of diabetes, with the usual success. But so soon as the medicine was discontinued the disease returned, and he went on uncured for more than twelve months, until, evincing a little anxiety on the subject, I undertook to try another plan, which, I am happy to say, has had every good effect that could be wished; but as I am not impatient for fame, and disdain that which is spurious, if he should ave any return of his complaint whilst I am alive, I will state the circumstance to the editor of the LANCET. Since I gave the first prescription to the world I have seen five patients completely cured by it. The following is the prescription which I wrote for Mr. Graham:—

℞ *Pulv. strycnos*, gr. v.
Ferri Præcip. scr. j.
Cretæ ppt. 3j
Pulv. opii, gr. j. M. Ft. pulv. j. ter in dies, ex aq. font.

Darlington, Nov. 30th, 1836.

SIR!—On the 10th of last December you were kind enough to insert in the LANCET a case of diabetes, wherein Thomas Graham, Esq., of Kiverston, after having suffered during some years under this awful complaint, was restored to health, with, sometimes a little change in the strength, or mode of mixing, the following formula, the variation consisiing in mixing a little powdered gum acacia with it at the time:—

Powdered nux vomica, 5 grains; *precipitate of Iron*, 1 scruple: *prepared chalk*, 1 drachm; *powdered opium*, 1 grain. Mix. Make a powder, one such to be taken three times a day in water.

I said that if he continued well I would say so. I am now happy to state that Mr. Graham has become stout, strong, and fresh-looking, and he can bear as much exercise as most men.

Your obliged servant,

J. PEACOCK, M.D.

Darlington, Feb. 27th, 1837.

CURE OF TRAUMATIC TETANUS & DIABETES.

Many attempts have been made to relieve these awful complaints since our great father in Therapeutics, *Van Swieton*,

was foiled in his praiseworthy attempts to subdue them. The remedies hereby made known, act so soon and with such certainty, that the patient is convinced very early of their utility. The discoverer only advises the patient to see to having genuine drugs, and, if diabetic patients can make it convenient, to drink two pints of the Dinsdale water every day.

THE END.

W. Brown, Printer, Stockton.